

Passman's Threat Of Suicide Told

Associated Press

A physician who has been treating Otto Passman testified yesterday that even during his current competency hearing the former congressman has threatened to commit suicide.

"Early this morning he indicated he would do away with himself rather than stand trial," said Dr. Christian Ulrich, an internal medicine specialist from Monroe, La., Passman's hometown.

The hearing is being held so that U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker can decide whether Passman—who will be 78 next week—has the mental capacity to undergo trial on bribery and conspiracy charges in a Korean influence-buying case.

Passman is charged with taking about \$213,000 from Tong-sun Park for helping the rice broker in deals between the United States and South Korea. Passman has not pleaded to the charges because his lawyers say he is not competent to aid in his defense.